

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13911 101143Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

H-02 DHA-02 SS-15 /037 W

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R 100930Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 103

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: QUESTIONING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOUT AMERICAN PW/MIA'S

REF: STATE 219997

1. PURSUANT TO REQUEST CONTAINED IN REFTTEL, TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITED JOSE FABELLA CENTER IN MANILA WHERE BOAT CASE REFUGEES ARE NOW QUARTERED. OFFICERS DID NOT RESTRICT THE REFUGEES QUESTIONED TO THE HUDSON 47 GROUP, BUT BROADENED INTERVIEW LIST TO INCLUDE ALL REFUGEES CONSIDERED LIKELY TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICANS IN VIETNAM. REFUGEES INTERVIEWED CAME MOSTLY FROM SAIGON AREA WITH A FEW FROM NHA TRANG. THEY WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION THEY HAD ON ANY AMERICAN THEY KNEW OR HAD KNOWLEDGE OF, OBTAINED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, SINCE MAY 1975. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE FRAGMENTED NOTES EMBASSY OFFICERS OBTAINED. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, IT WAS DECIDED TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE RAW DATA RATHER THAN TRY TO CONSOLIDATE AND GENERALIZE THE DATA THEREBY RUNNING THE RISK OF OMITTING SOMETHING OF POSSIBLE VALUE.

2. SOURCE 1: HAS LEARNED FROM FRIENDS WHO CAME FROM HANOI IN APRIL 1976 TO SAIGON THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE HOLDING SOME U.S. CITIZENS. HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING FURTHER ABOUT AMERICANS, I.E. WHETHER MILITARY OR NOT OR THEIR PRESENT STATUS. SOURCE ALSO HEARD THAT A US CITIZEN DOCTOR WHO HAD BEEN IN DANANG WAS BELIEVED TO BE STILL IN SAIGON.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 13911 101143Z

3. SOURCE 2: SAID THAT A VIETNAMESE ENGINEER CAME TO SAIGON

FROM HANOI IN FEBRUARY 1976. TOLD SOURCE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE STILL HOLDING SOME AMERICANS IN HANOI, BUT DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY.

4. SOURCE 3: WAS FORMERLY IN ARVN IN 1975 BEFORE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM. SAW AN AIRCRAFT CRASH ABOUT 40 KM FROM NHA TRANG. SAID IT WAS A HON ONG WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS SECRET AREA OF THE VC. SAID HE SAW THE REMAINS OF TWO AMERICANS IN THE WRECKAGE.

5. SOURCE 4: SAID A FRIEND SAW SOME VC RUNNING AFTER AN AMERICAN BETWEEN NHA TRANG AND SAIGON 6 MONTHS AFTER FALL OF VIETNAM.

6. SOURCE 5: SAID HE PERSONALLY SPOKE IN SEPTEMBER 1975 WITH AMERICAN WHO CAME TO 53 HUNH THUC KHANG, SAIGON (DUYE VO ELECTRONIC SHOP). SAID THE AMERICAN CAME TO HAVE RADIO FIXED. RETURNED IN MARCH 1976. BELIEVED THE AMERICAN HAD A RADIO TRANSMITTER.

7. SOURCE 6: SAW AN AMERICAN ON JULY 15, 1976, NEAR TAN SON NHUT NEAR 3RD FIELD HOSPITAL. SAID AMERICAN WORKED FOR CIVILIAN CORPORATION IN SAIGON. AMERICAN TOLD SOURCE HE WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO U.S. SOON, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHEN. SAME SOURCE SAID HE SAW THREE OTHER AMERICANS SHIPPING IN SAIGON IN JUNE 1976.

8. SOURCE 7: SAID HE HEARD OF A GROUP OF AMERICANS LIVING WITH FRENCH CITIZENS IN A HOUSE IN SAIGON. DIDN'T KNOW HOW MANY, WHERE, ETC.

9. SOURCE 8: HEARD THAT HIS "ADVISOR," MR. GUIZEMAN, A US CITIZEN, COULD NOT RETURN TO U.S. DOESN'T KNOW FOR SURE WHY NOT. SAW HIM IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER 1975 IN SAIGON. GUIZEMAN WAS A CIVILIAN AT ELECTRONIC CENTER AT NHA BE. SAME SOURCE ALSO MET TWO AMERICANS AT FRENCH CENTER IN SAIGON IN DECEMBER 1975.

10. SOURCE 9: SAID HE SAW THREE AMERICANS (TWO BLACK AND ONE WHITE) IN COFFEE SHOP (MAJESTIC RESTAURANT). THOUGHT THEY WERE LIVING ABOVE THE COFFEE SHOP. LOCATED ON TU DO STREET IN SAIGON. SAME SOURCE HEARD VAGUE RUMORS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03     MANILA 13911 101143Z

AMERICANS HELD IN HANOI.

11. SOURCE 10: SAID HIS NEPHEW HAD COME DOWN FROM LAO KAY PROVINCE. SAID THERE WERE MANY AMERICANS BEING HELD THERE BUT APPARENTLY NOT REPEAT NOT AGAINST THEIR WILL. SAME SOURCE ALSO HEARD OF THREE AMERICANS AT CAO DAI CHURCH IN TAY NINH.

12. EMBASSY DOES NOT PERCEIVE ANY OBJECTION TO INCLUDING  
REQUESTS FOR DESIRED DATA IN INTERVIEWS. SUCH REQUESTS WILL  
BE MADE PART OF ALL REFUGEE INTERVIEWS IN THE FUTURE.  
SULLIVAN

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